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THE PLAN OF THE 1934 COTTON ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

A radio talk by C. A. Cobb, Chief, cotton production section, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, on the National Farm and Home Hour, January 2, 1934, broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations.

-----oooOoo-----

Ladies and gentlemen of the Cotton Belt!

The campaign for a 25 million acre cotton crop in 1934 is on. It is under way in 800 counties in the 16 cotton producing States. And this is the first of a series of 8 cotton talks that will be delivered this month in the Department of Agriculture period of the Farm and Home Hour. You are cordially invited to listen to these talks, which will give you the reasons for the 1934 cotton adjustment program, and reports on its progress.

On the 20th of June, just 6 and a half months ago, I faced this same microphone in this same room and told you of the 1933 program. You took that program on faith. And your faith has been rewarded by a rise in the price of cotton that added over 300 million dollars to the value of the 1933 crop.

An incredible change has taken place in the Cotton Belt since that day in June that marks the end of the old order, and the beginning of the new. The situation was so serious when farmers went into the fields to plant last year's crop that it looked like we would lose everything. Things had gone from bad to worse. And a mountain of cotton lay between the grower and a fair price. He had piled it up in a desperate effort to hold his home and his farm.

The situation was so desperate that cotton farmers and their friends asked for immediate help. Fortunately it came in the form of the 1933 emergency program that gave us a 13 million bale crop instead of a 17 and a half million bale crop, and a 10 cent cotton instead of 4 or 5 cent cotton. It came like rain upon a parched and dying crop. And never before have we witnessed such a revival.

Business in the Cotton Belt is so much better this winter than it was last winter that we are apt to forget that the business of growing cotton is not permanently cured --- is only convalescing. And while our hearts are glad that it is better we mustn't forget that the old sore --- an excessive supply of cotton, is still with us, and healing will be complete only when the cause is removed.

We must continue the reduction program until there is that balance between supply and demand that produces a healthy condition -- and then we must keep that balance after we get it. A planned and balanced production is the keynote of the New Deal, for the Cotton Belt. And that's the goal of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and I urge you not to be misled by rumors and stories of this or that marvelous increase in consumption or of new outlets for American cotton. We could have both of these

(over)

and still the price of cotton next fall would be low unless we hold down the size of this year's crop. As a matter of fact, the supply of American cotton will be twice as big as it ought to be for a fair price when you put on your picking sack next fall.

I take it that you want a fair price for your cotton next fall, and that you want to do what you can to get it. So I have given you the situation we face, and that explains why we are continuing the cotton adjustment program. It's a program to give cotton farmers an opportunity to make more money from less cotton than they would from much cotton. In the meantime, the mills of the world are reducing the size of the supply that all but wrecked both the producer and the cotton manufacturer.

This is the beginning of a new year. The best single resolution a cotton farmer can make is to sign the 1934 contract and help hold down the size of this year's crop. The contract that is being offered to cotton farmers this month is purely a business proposition. It is strictly a producer's contract and has been worked out so as to make it more desirable to come in than to stay out.

Last year's emergency program was hurriedly drawn, and more hurriedly executed. That had to be on account of the lack of time. This year's program is different. We have not only profited by last year's experience, but we have had time to work out a program that looks good from any angle.

The contract itself is both plain and simple. It provides for rental payments for the land rented to the Secretary of Agriculture. These payments are based on the average yield of lint cotton per acre for the 5-year period 1928 to 32 inclusive. The actual rental is 3 and one-half cents per pound of lint cotton, and the payments may run as high as 18 dollars an acre for high yielding land.

These rental payments of approximately 45 million dollars each will be made in two equal installments so as to furnish the farmer with ready cash to help finance planting and picking operations. It is the plan to make the first rental payment between March 1 and April 30, 1934, and the second between August 1 and September 30.

In addition to the rental payment the farmer who signs the new contract will get a parity payment of at least 1 cent a pound or 5 dollars a bale on the domestic allotment part of his 1934 crop. That's about half of the crop. The total amount of the parity payment amount to between 25 and 30 million dollars, and it is unconditionally guaranteed by the Federal Government. The parity payments will be made in December, 1934. But only the farmers who sign the contract can share in these payments. So regardless of the size or the price of the 1934 crop, the farmer who signs the contract is sure of getting at least 5 dollars a bale more than the farmer who stays out, on something like half of his crop. And that's only one of several advantages that the farmer who signs up has over the farmer who stays out.

Those are the two main features of the new contract --- rental payments ranging as high as 18 dollars an acre, and parity payments of at least 5 dollars a bale on the allotment portion of the 1934 crop. The rental payments mind you will be made in two installments -- one in the early part of the spring to help finance the planting operation, and the other in the early part of the fall to help finance the picking.

The new contracts are already in the field. Agricultural leaders, extension workers, and vocational teachers have all been supplied with contracts and instruction books, and are ready for the sign up. In fact, several thousand contracts were signed yesterday. Other thousands are being signed today, and others will be signed tomorrow and so on until the goal is reached.

We expect to make a bigger success of this year's program than we did of the emergency program last year. We've got to. The good of the South and the nation demand it. And I'm counting on every farmer, every county agent, every vocational teacher, every agricultural leader, every member of the press, every chamber of commerce, every home demonstration agent, and every community club in the Cotton Belt to join hands in a solid march against excessive supplies and poverty prices. The quicker we get through with the sign up the sooner we will be ready to make the first 50 million dollars of rental payments. So it's in the interest of better business as well as sound farming that the new cotton contract be signed without delay.

The eyes of the nation are once more focused on the Cotton Belt. We were the first to try the new deal for agriculture. We made good in a big way, and we are going over the top again. The South is no longer in the dumps. A map of the nation's business shows that the South is coming out of the depression faster than any other part of the country.

Awards for construction, building, and engineering projects in the 16 cotton producing States were 40 percent bigger in November than they were in October. And November was the fourth consecutive month to show gains in the Cotton Belt. The total value of the November awards amounted to 75 million dollars, and that's the highest figure since July, 1930.

A big part of that improvement is due to the success of last year's cotton program. But that improvement won't continue unless the farmer gets a decent price for his cotton. He can't do that unless we hold down the supply, and we can't hold down the supply unless we hold down the production. That's the job. In putting it over we have everything to win. To fail is to lose all.

So I urge you to sign your name to one of the new cotton contracts at the first opportunity. If there is some question that you would like to have answered, get in touch with your county agent, or your agricultural leaders. They have instruction books that contain the answers to a thousand and one questions.

And if you want to hear a general discussion of the new cotton program, and of the 1934 contract, tune in your radio sets every day and night this month. There will be a cotton talk on the National Farm and Home Hour on January 5. Another on the ninth, one on the twelfth, another on the sixteenth, one on the nineteenth, one on the twenty-third, and one on the twenty sixth. Get your pencil and mark down the dates while I give them again. January 5th, speaker, Oscar Johnston of Mississippi. January 9th, probably the Secretary of Agriculture. January 12th, J. Phil Campbell, in charge of replacement crops for the cotton Belt. January 16th, Lawrence Myers on cotton supplies. January 19th, J. A. Evans on the long-time program for southern agriculture. January 23rd, Arthur W. Palmer on growing better cotton. January 26th, C. A. Cobb. That's me.

And now in conclusion, let me remind you again that the new cotton contract is a business proposition, and that it's to the interest of your own bank account to sign up and help hold the size of this year's crop.

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THE 1934 COTTON ADJUSTMENT PLAN

A radio interview between Cully A. Cobb, Cotton Section, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and Frank L. Teuton, Radio Service, Department of Agriculture, broadcast by the Dixie network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, 8:15 P.M., January 2, 1934.

--ooOoo--

TEUTON:

Mr. Cobb, I have just returned from a two-weeks trip through the eastern half of the Cotton Belt. On that trip I talked with farmers, bankers, merchants, county agents, doctors, school teachers, tax collectors, and many others in different walks of life.

COBB:

That's fine. You must have had a very interesting trip.

TEUTON:

I did. Especially because I learned at first hand what the people think about the cotton adjustment program of 1933 and the plan for cotton adjustment in 1934.

COBB:

Well, what do they think about it?

TEUTON:

They like it. They like the results the 1933 program produced.

COBB:

You mean they like the 10 cent cotton that the program helped them get?

TEUTON:

Yes, Mr. Cobb, that's exactly what I mean. I went through 8 of the main cotton producing States east of the Mississippi River. I talked with hundreds of people, and they are all well pleased with the results of last year's emergency program, that took more than 4 million bales of cotton out of production, raised the price of cotton, and sent more than 150 million dollars in cash into the pockets of the cooperating farmers.

COBB:

You say you talked with tax collectors on this trip?

TEUTON:

Yes. I talked with tax collectors in West Tennessee, north Mississippi, central Mississippi, southern Alabama, southern Georgia, and northern Florida.

COBB:

What did you find out about the collections? Did the officers say that farmers are paying their taxes any better this winter than they did last winter?

(over)

TEUTON:

Oh, yes. Collections are 25---30---35--- and as high as 40 per cent better in some sections this winter than they were last winter. For instance, H. S. Nichols, district agricultural agent for west Tennessee, told me that tax collections will be a great deal better in his section this winter than they were last winter.

Will Kelly, Sheriff and tax collector for Lee County, Mississippi, said that collections were almost 30 per cent better than they were last winter, and that the people paid without so much trouble.

H. E. Kendrick, tax collector for Dallas County, Alabama, said that his collections on December 18th, the day I talked with him, were 402 receipts ahead of what they were on that date the year before.

I got similar reports in Montgomery County, Alabama, and the counties I visited in Georgia and Florida.

COBB:

That's fine. But tell me this: Did you find any evidence where farmers used the cash they got from the cotton program to pay their taxes?

TEUTON:

Yes. I found instances where the farmers had used the Government checks they got for plowing up cotton to pay their taxes.

COBB:

Did you find any instances where farmers used Government checks to pay off debts they owed the banks?

TEUTON:

Yes.

COBB:

Where?

TEUTON:

One of the most striking examples I recall was at Selma, Alabama. Mr. Radcliff, cashier of the Peoples Bank and Trust Company, had just received a 540 dollar Government check in payment for a 450 dollar debt not 10 minutes before I walked in his bank.

COBB:

Did you find any objections to the way the Adjustment Administration has handled things?

TEUTON:

Yes, a few.

COBB:

What were they?

TEUTON:

Well, mainly about slowness in getting the plow-up checks out last fall.

COBB:

Well, I think I would have objected to that myself, but we couldn't help the delays. Last year's program was hurriedly organized, and hurriedly executed, and we did everything that was humanly possible to get those checks out in a hurry, but it was physically impossible. However, we have overcome that difficulty now, and the checks of the future should get out on time unless some unforeseen emergency arises.

TEUTON:

I hope you can do that, Mr. Cobb, because that was the biggest criticism I found of last year's program. I found another complaint about unfair yields on account of cross-county ginning, and ---- (Cobb cuts in) ----

COBB:

Well, I'd just like to say for the benefit of our listeners tonight that we are working on all of the weak points of last year's program and that we believe we have ironed them out of the new program. We have had more time to work this program out ---- (Teuton cuts in) ----

TEUTON:

I think it would be a good idea to tell the Dixie listeners something about the new program, Mr. Cobb. You've been asking me about the business situation in the Cotton Belt; suppose you answer some of the questions I found people are asking about the new program and the new cotton adjustment contract that is being offered cotton farmers this month.

COBB:

All right, I'm ready.

TEUTON:

Well, is the new contract ready?

COBB:

Yes, it's not only ready but in the field. County agents, vocational teachers, and agricultural leaders in most of the 800 cotton producing counties of the 16 Cotton Belt states are all well supplied with contracts and instruction books.

TEUTON:

When will the campaign for the sign up start?

COBB:

It started yesterday morning in most parts of the Belt. Several thousand farmers have already signed contracts, and other thousands are signing every day.

TEUTON:

What kind of looking thing is the new contract?

(over)

COBB:

It contains 3 sheets of paper about the size of an ordinary business letter. One sheet is white, one blue, and one cream colored. All are to be filled out. The white copy goes to Washington, the blue copy stays in the county files, and the cream colored copy belongs to the producer.

TEUTON:

Is there anything a farmer can do while he's waiting for the contract?

COBB:

Yes, he can speed up the signing of the contract by getting the following information ready in advance:

- First, the number of bales of cotton produced each year for the last 6 years.
- Second, the average weight of the bales produced,
- Third, number of acres planted to cotton each year, and
- Fourth, the average yield of lint cotton produced per acre.

TEUTON:

Mr. Cobb, what are the main features of the new contract?

COBB:

From the grower's standpoint there are two. Rental payments and parity payments.

TEUTON:

What is the rental payment?

COBB:

The rental payment in the new contract is 3 and a half cents per pound of lint cotton. And the payment is based on the yield. Rental payments may run as high as 18 dollars an acre on high yielding land such as land that produces say, a bale to the acre.

TEUTON:

What is the parity payment?

COBB:

The parity payment is a payment of not less than 5 dollars a bale on the domestic allotment part of the 1934 crop. Roughly, that's about 40 per cent of the crop. That payment is unconditionally guaranteed by the Government regardless of the price or size of this year's crop.

TEUTON:

When will those payments be made?

COBB:

The rental payment will be made in two equal installments. One installment will be paid in the early part of the spring to help finance the planting operation, and the other installment will be paid in the early part of the fall to help finance the picking.

TEUTON:

When will the parity payment be made?

COBB:

That will be made sometime during the month of December, 1934.

TEUTON:

Mr. Cobb, are you expecting any difficulty in obtaining signatures of the majority of growers to 1934 contracts?

COBB:

Absolutely not.

TEUTON:

Why are you so positive?

COBB:

I'm positive because the contract, first of all, is a producer's contract. Besides that, the cotton farmer knows what's ailing the cotton industry. And when intelligent people find out what's ailing their business, and what will cure it, they usually apply the remedy.

TEUTON:

Well, what is ailing the cotton industry?

COBB:

Too much cotton. Our supply of American cotton is almost twice the size it ought to be. And we've got to reduce the size of the supply before we can have a normal balance between supply and demand.

TEUTON:

Do you think the cotton program will do that?

COBB:

Didn't it do it this year?

TEUTON:

I don't get your meaning.

COBB:

Well, we planted 41 million acres in cotton last spring. That would have produced about 18 million bales if it had all been allowed to mature, but last year's program prevented 10 million acres or one-fourth of the crop from maturing. That cut our production from 17½ to 13 million bales. And that reduced the supply of cotton by almost 5 million bales. That's the way the cotton reduction program reduces the supply.

TEUTON:

I see. Well, then, what is the goal for the 1934 program?

COBB:

A 25 million acre crop.

(over)

TEUTON:

What will that produce under normal conditions?

COBB:

Anywhere from 8 to 10 million bales.

TEUTON:

And how big is the supply of cotton on hand, or the carryover as it is commonly called?

COBB:

It will be around 10 million bales when farmers start picking next fall.

TEUTON:

What should it be?

COBB:

About 5 or 6 million bales at the very outside.

TEUTON:

How much American cotton do the mills of the world use in a year?

COBB:

Anywhere from 12 to 15 million bales. Fifteen and eight-tenths million bales is the most ever used. That was in 1926, a year of cheap cotton and booming business.

TEUTON:

So we've got to hold down production for a year or so until the mills of the world have had time to use up our big supply, and get it in line with a normal demand, is that it?

COBB:

That's exactly it.

TEUTON:

What about last year's consumption of American cotton? Wasn't it bigger than usual?

COBB:

It was bigger than it was during the depression years, but it wasn't as big as average consumption in the five years before the depression.

TEUTON:

So if this year's consumption of American cotton is as big as last year's it'll only be about average -- is that it?

COBB:

That's right.

TEUTON:

What would happen if we produced a big crop this year, say a 15 million bale crop instead of a little crop?

COBB:

Well, it would be about like feeding a typhoid fever patient on boiled cabbage the day the fever left him. If the shock didn't kill him it would give him such a set-back that it would take him a long time to get over it.

TEUTON:

What do you think would happen to the price of cotton if we produced a big crop this year?

COBB:

I think the farmers would make the world a present of another cotton crop.

TEUTON:

What controls the price of cotton anyway?

COBB:

In the end it's the supply and the demand.

TEUTON:

Who controls the supply?

COBB:

The farmer controlled it last year.

TEUTON:

Everybody said he wouldn't or couldn't.

COBB:

The fact remains that he did.

TEUTON:

Do you think last year's program had anything to do with the 10-cent cotton we've had this winter?

COBB:

Undoubtedly so. In fact, everything. And we've got to hold down the size of this year's crop also if we want a fair price.

TEUTON:

So if you were preaching a sermon tonight on better cotton prices, your text would be, "sign the 1934 contract and help reduce the supply," wouldn't it?

COBB:

Right. The keynote of the 1934 cotton adjustment program is not increased production, but balanced production -- balanced so that the supply of American cotton will meet the demands for our cotton without flooding the markets and reducing prices.

TEUTON:

Thank you, Mr. Cobb. I'm sure the Dixie listeners of the Columbia Broadcasting System appreciate what you have said tonight about our cotton situation and the need for further reducing our supply of American cotton until there is a better balance between the supply and the demand.

(over)

COBB:

Well, Teuton, I'm sure you're right -- and folks in the Cotton Belt, I urge you to show your realization of the way to cure cotton trouble by signing the 1934 cotton adjustment contracts in record time. Good night, folks, and lots of luck, in 1934.

TEUTON:

And that goes for me, too. We both bid you good night, and wish you lots of luck for the New Year. And don't forget that Tuesday night is Cotton Night during the whole month of January.

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CAMPBELL:

Well, that's the situation when a farmer rents cotton land to the Secretary of Agriculture. But the aim is to play fair with the landowner. The cotton contract permits the owner of the rented land to use it for the following purposes only: Soil-improving crops, erosion-preventing crops, food and feed crops for home use, fallowing, or such other uses as may be permitted by the Secretary or his authorized agent.

TEUTON:

You spoke of erosion-preventing crops: That means planting the rented land to crops that will prevent the soil from washing away, doesn't it?

CAMPBELL:

Yes, that's exactly what it means. And that's important, too. As a rule, cotton lands wash easily because of clean cultivation. The results of experiments show that washing often removes as much as 20 times more fertility in a year than crops do. Therefore, the contract permits the owner of the rented land to plant that land to crops that will prevent it from washing away.

TEUTON:

What are some of those crops?

CAMPBELL:

They vary according to the section, soil, and climate. Pasture grasses and some of our best legumes are included in the list. Your county agent has a list of the crops suited to your county.

TEUTON:

You spoke of pasture. Can a farmer plant his rented acres to pasture?

CAMPBELL:

Certainly, either temporary, or permanent, or both. And the regular pasture grasses and crops suited to his section may be used for that purpose. If you can't get enough seed to plant all the pasture you want, plant what you can this year, and add to it next year.

TEUTON:

What about planting trees on the rented acres? Is that permitted?

CAMPBELL:

Yes, the contract permits you to plant some or all of the rented acres to farm woodlots if you want to. If you are interested in that we can furnish you with a list of the trees that will grow best in your part of the country. And don't forget that trees are a profitable crop when properly managed. On November 20, 1933, the Atlanta Constitution, the Atlanta Journal, the Atlanta Georgian, the Macon Telegraph, the Savannah Morning News, and a number of smaller newspapers printed their entire editions on paper that was made from Georgia pines. Here is a development that gives promise of an opportunity for industrial and agricultural expansion that would utilize American raw material and create employment for American workers in supplying a product that is now largely purchased in other countries.

TEUTON:

Would a farmer be violating any rules of the cotton contract by planting his rented acres to trees?

CAMPBELL:

Not at all.

TEUTON:

Now fallowing, what do you mean by that?

CAMPBELL:

Level lands like we have in some parts of Texas that don't wash so badly and that are not planted to any kind of crop may be fallowed at regular intervals during the spring and summer to preserve the moisture in some sections, and to kill noxious weeds and insects in others.

TEUTON:

How about crops for improving the fertility of the soil?

CAMPBELL:

That's very important. One of the first things that a farmer should do after he signs a contract for land that is subject to washing is to take the proper steps to build up the fertility of that soil. Such legumes as lespedeza, cowpeas, field peas, soybeans, velvet beans, crotalaria, kudzu, alfalfa, sweet clover, burr clover and so on, and such pasture grasses as Bermuda, Dallis grass, Sudan grass, and carpet grass may be used for maintaining and building up the fertility of the rented acres. But these crops are for soil improvement, and not for harvest except in the case of supplementary feeds for livestock for home use only. The object of building up the fertility of the soil is not for the purpose of growing more cotton. It's so that you can produce cotton more economically and more profitably. In the end, it means that you can make more money from less land, and have more time for other things.

TEUTON:

What about growing feed crops on the rented acres?

CAMPBELL:

The term feed crops means such crops as grain, forage, hay, and so on that can be used for producing livestock that will be used or consumed on the farm. As a rule, pastures, and hay crops, particularly legume hays make the most economical feed crops in the Cotton Belt. Corn is not a profitable crop on most of our cotton land. The yield is too low. The object of the feed clause in the contract is not to increase the supply of feed generally, and for sale, but to provide for the deficiency of the feed crops normally grown on other land on the farm.

TEUTON:

What about food crops?

(over)

CAMPBELL:

The farmer has the privilege of planting some of his rented acres to food crops for home use only. I have before me a survey of several typical cotton counties. It shows that the farmers in these counties do not produce and consume more than half as much milk, and poultry, and eggs as they ought to for adequate nutrition. Their use of fresh vegetables is one-third smaller than it ought to be, and small fruits are almost entirely lacking. So if cotton farmers use some of the rented acres to increase their supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables for home use, it will mean better balanced meals, and healthier and happier families.

TEUTON:

So you see in the cotton program a new kind of agriculture, do you?

CAMPBELL:

Yes, under the terms of the cotton contract both landlords and tenants have the greatest opportunity they have ever had to improve their pastures, to terrace their rolling lands, plant trees, build up soil fertility, and best of all to supply their tables and their pantries with the best of foods.

TEUTON:

Where does the tenant come in on these replacement crops?

CAMPBELL:

The landlord is requested to give his tenants some of the rented acres, rent free, for the production of food and feed crops for home use.

TEUTON:

Could a tenant use this land to grow crops to can for use during the winter?

CAMPBELL:

Certainly.

TEUTON:

I guess you get a lot of letters about the use of the rented acres.

CAMPBELL:

Yes, many of them. Here's a bunch I brought along today.

TEUTON:

Fine business. Do you mind if I read some of them for the benefit of our listeners?

CAMPBELL:

Not at all.

TEUTON:

This letter is from a cotton farmer in North Carolina. He says: "I grow cotton. I also produce all the food and feed I need for home use, and sometimes have some to sell either directly or indirectly through the sale of livestock. Can I produce corn on the land I rent to the Secretary and grind that corn in my own mill, and sell the meal?" What's the answer to that question, Mr. Campbell?

CAMPBELL:

The answer is no. That would be a violation of the contract because it would be indirectly producing a cash crop on the rented land.

TEUTON:

Here's a letter from a farmer in West Tennessee. He says: "I plan to use one acre of my rented land up near the house for growing some small fruits and berries. I want to put out a few rows of strawberries, some raspberries, some grapes, some peaches, and a few apples. Can I do that?"

CAMPBELL:

He certainly can. That's one of the things we want to encourage.

TEUTON:

Listen to this. "I'm a tenant cotton farmer. I live on a big cotton plantation near the Mississippi River. We have always lived out of tin cans while we produced cotton. I want to know if it will be all right for me to get a cow and grow her feed on some of the rented acres."

CAMPBELL:

Yes. The contract says that tenants are to be allowed the free use of portions of the rented acres for this very purpose. The contract provides that tenants may exchange their labor with the landlord for the use of work animals and equipment for the production of food for their families and pasture and feed for their livestock on portions of the rented acres. This provision of the contract gives an unparalleled opportunity for better relations between landlords and tenants. It permits the landlord to let the tenant feed himself and have a bigger and better variety of food and feed. And it permits the tenant to grow cotton without robbing the soil.

TEUTON:

Well, here's a letter from a farmer who lives near Montgomery, Alabama. He says: "I plan to rent the Secretary 25 acres of cotton land this year, and increase my number of laying hens from 250 to 1,000 -- can I grow my extra chicken feed on the rented acres? I sell eggs to one of the big hotels in Montgomery."

CAMPBELL:

No, that would be indirectly using the land for a cash crop. It would be all right to grow feed for 40 or 50 chickens to supply the home table with poultry and eggs, but not to grow feed for expanding the poultry business. The rented land may be used for producing food and feed for home use where there is a deficit of these crops on the farm, but not for expanding the commercial production of crops and commodities that are produced in other parts of the country. The object of the cotton adjustment program is to reduce the production of cotton and balance the production of the other crops like small fruits and vegetables that have been below the deadline in so many of our cotton counties.

TEUTON:

Listen to this: "I live in the Mississippi Delta. My land produces a bale of cotton to the acre. And I grow all the food and feed I need. My land is rich. What can I do with the 50 acres I plan to rent to the Secretary?"

CAMPBELL:

You know what I told that fellow? I said I can refer you to another Miss. farmer not 50 miles from where you live who grows 2 bales of cotton to the acre because he improves his soil every winter by planting a winter legume. He made 2-bale land out of 1-bale land by building up his soil fertility with winter legumes. The richer a soil the more profitable it is to farm it, and the man who builds up his land and farms rich soil usually has more money to spend as well as more time to enjoy it. So I'd say, take advantage of this opportunity to make poor land good, and good land better.

TEUTON:

I see Morse Salisbury holding up three fingers, that means our time is about up, but here's one more letter I'd like to read. May we read it, Morse?

SALISBURY:

Sure, go ahead.

TEUTON:

This letter is from a farmer in Texas. He says: "I expect to rent the Secretary 200 acres of cotton land in 1934, but I'm a bachelor, and I can't plant all that land to spinach and eat it all myself. That's too doggoned much spinach. Why can't I raise a crop of maize, feed it to some sheep, and market the crop indirectly through the sheep? -- (Campbell cuts in)

CAMPBELL:

I remember that letter. It's from Dallas, isn't it?

TEUTON:

Yes, it is.

CAMPBELL:

He couldn't do that because it would be in violation of the contract. It would be indirectly raising a cash crop on the rented acres, and that is forbidden under the terms of the contract.

TEUTON:

Now, Mr. Campbell, won't you summarize for our listeners some of the main things that the rented acres may be used for?

CAMPBELL:

Well, I'll simply quote the contract. It reads: "The producer shall use the rented acres only for: Soil-improving crops; erosion-preventing crops; food crops for consumption by the producer on this farm; feed crops for the production of livestock or livestock products for consumption or use by the producer on this farm; or fallowing; or such other uses as may be permitted by the Secretary of his authorized agent."

That's the whole thing in a nutshell. And if you'll read your contract, and then follow the instructions of your county agent, you'll have an opportunity to help reduce the supply and increase the price of cotton, and to build up your soil fertility, and provide a better balanced ration for your table without violating the contract in any way.

TEUTON:

That's fine, Mr. Campbell, and I'm sure we all thank you for this interesting discussion on what we can do with the rented acres.

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Release when delivered

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SOUTH

Address by Oscar Johnston, Manager of Cotton Pool, over Farm and Home hour
January 15 at 1:00 o'clock, Eastern Standard Time.

[1934]

Throughout the cotton belt of America, agents of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration aided by local county and community committees are today presenting to the producers of cotton, the Administration's program for controlling the production of cotton for 1934. The Administration is seeking the cooperation of the cotton producers in the effort now being made to restore prosperity to the Cotton Belt and to contribute greatly toward the restoration of prosperity to the Nation.

There are three outstanding features in the 1934 program which I wish today to emphasize with the hope that every cotton producer in America will give consideration to these features and to the benefits which will accrue to the producer.

These features are:-

- (1) The profit to be derived from the ultimate sale of the pooled cotton and the cotton now under the ten-cent loan program.
- (2) The cash rental to be paid for the acreage left out of production.
- (3) The virtual guarantee to the farmer who cooperates in the program against a disastrously low price.

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In connection with the 1933 acreage reduction program some 560,000 producers of cotton were given options at 6 cents per pound on 2,400,000 bales of cotton. Approximately 60,000 of these producers have exercised their options and called for the sale of approximately 200,000 bales of the optioned cotton. This cotton has been sold, and checks for approximately \$4,250,000 have been or are now daily being mailed to these producers, paying to each producer between \$21 and \$24 per bale, the amount depending upon the market price on the day of the exercise of the option by the producer. Producers who have thus called their options have no further interest in the Government owned cotton. Approximately 500,000 producers have elected to take advantage of the offer of the Administration to advance to them 4 cents per pound or \$20 per bale and have agreed in consideration for this advance to sign the 1934-1935 Cotton Acreage Reduction contract. As a result, Secretary Wallace has established what is known as the "Cotton Producers' Pool" and has delivered or is now in process of delivering to this pool, 2,200,000 bales of cotton against which \$44,000,000 have been or is now being distributed among the 500,000 producers who become participants in the Pool. The pool manager will hold this cotton until July 31, 1934, unless in the meanwhile it may be sold on a basis of 15 cents per pound for 7/8" middling cotton. After July 31, the cotton will be marketed in accordance with the discretion of the manager of the pool, with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture. From the proceeds of the sale of this cotton, the costs and expenses of carrying the cotton will be paid and 10 cents will be deducted to reimburse the government for the cost of the cotton and the surplus will be distributed amongst the producers participating in the pool. It is my estimate that it will not cost more than one-cent per pound or \$5 per bale to carry this cotton for a year and to sell it. Therefore, if by cooperating in the 1934 program, the

producers of cotton can aid in bringing the price above 11 cents per pound, that excess will be distributed among the producers at the rate of \$5 per bale for each one cent per pound above 11 cents which may be derived from the sale of the cotton. A similar situation is true with regard to the cotton upon which producers have borrowed ten cents per pound from the Commodity Credit Corporation. We estimate that approximately 2 million bales have been pledged to the Commodity Credit Corporation against a ten-cent advance. This cotton may be marketed at the discretion of the owner provided it be sold for an amount sufficient to pay the 10-cent loan, interest and carrying charges. It is my estimate that this cotton like the cotton in the pool, will pay the producers at the rate of \$5 per bale for every one cent per pound above 11 cents at which it may be sold. If as a result of the 1934 program, the price of middling cotton can be brought to 15 cents, by August 1st, between 500,000 and a million producers will benefit to the extent of \$20 per bale on more than $4\frac{1}{4}$ million bales. This would represent a profit to the producers of more than \$80,000,000 at no cost or expense to the government. It occurs to me that this is a prize well worth fighting for and that every producer of cotton who is interested in the pool or who has received the 10 cent loan, will not only sign the 1934-1935 contract but will use his every effort to have every person in his community do likewise and that he will also be diligent in his effort to see to it that those who sign the 1934 contract carry out its terms and provisions honestly and faithfully.

Next with reference to the rental. If we assume a 100 percent sign-up of the 1934 contract, the acreage will be reduced next year to 25 million acres. The Administration will distribute amongst the producers taking a part in this Program approximately \$100,000,000. Of this, approximately \$50,000,000 will be paid to the participating producers in March and April, another \$50,000,000 in

August. This rental will pay more than two-thirds of the cash outlay required by the farmers to make the 1934 crop on the 25 million acres to be planted. This rental will reduce by at least \$100,000,000 the amount which otherwise would have to be borrowed by the producer to make his 1934 crop. The interest on this amount figured at 6 percent per annum and assuming that the farmers would only borrow it for a period of 4 months, would amount to \$2,400,000 and thus represents an economic saving to the producer. It also means that many thrifty farmers who have produced their own feed and foodstuffs will not have to mortgage their 1934 crops and should reach harvest time free from debt, independent and at liberty to market their crops as they see fit. In no instance, should the producer find it necessary to borrow more than one-third of the normal cash cost for his crop. Summed up, all of this means, that the producer who rents to the government 40 percent of his acreage, will receive enough cash to very nearly complete the production of the crop on 60 percent of the acreage and at the same time, be permitted to grow food and feed crops on the rented acreage. No such liberal proposal was ever made by a government to any class of its citizenship and every producer should take advantage of this opportunity to put his business on a cash basis.

Third, in addition to the cash rental, the administration promises another payment to the producer which is called a "parity payment." The contract guarantees that this payment will not be less than 1 cent per pound or \$5 per bale. It may be more than this. This payment is made on what is termed the domestic allotment of the producer. It will be paid on 40 percent of the 5-year average per acre per production of the farm governed by the contract. In other words, if your average yield over the base period fixed in your contract has been 250 pounds or half a bale per acre, and your planted acreage on your farm has been 100 acres,

your average production will have been 50 bales and your domestic allotment will be 20 bales. The parity payment of not less than \$5 per bale will be paid on 20 bales and this will be paid to you even though you have a complete crop failure and do not make 20 pounds per acre. If the market in the fall of 1934 should still be around 10 cents and pre-war parity for cotton should be as at present 15 cents, your parity payment would increase and may possibly be as much as \$15 per bale. This parity payment, therefore, gives to the producer who participates in this program, a form of insurance against crop failure and a distressingly low market. To get the full measure of the benefits provided by these three features of the contract, it is essential that the Administration have full and faithful cooperation from the producers of America. Without this cooperation, the plan cannot succeed, the benefits that have already been derived from the 1933 program will be lost and the cotton belt again financially destitute. It is my hope that every producer in the cotton belt will appreciate the vital necessity of immediate, active, wholehearted cooperation in the effort now being made by the administration to bring prosperity and happiness to the cotton belt.

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VALUE OF COTTON RENTAL PAYMENTS

A radio talk by Cully A. Cobb, chief of cotton section, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour, Thursday, January 25, 1934, and broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations.

---oOo---

Ladies and gentlemen of the Cotton Belt!

Four weeks ago I appeared before this microphone, and opened the campaign to sign the 1934 cotton adjustment contracts. As a whole, your response has been most gratifying, and the sign-up is making good progress in most parts of the Belt.

Thousands of cotton farmers offered to sign the 1934 contract when they accepted the pool agreement plan of settling their cotton options. Thousands more agreed to sign when they accepted the government loan of 10 cents a pound on last year's crop. Altogether, more than a half million producers agreed to sign the new contract before it came out, and thousands have signed since it came out.

But I want to call your attention to the fact that we asked for a 25 percent reduction last year, and that we accepted and approved for payment more than a million contracts. We are asking for a 40 percent reduction this year, and it is reasonable to assume that we will need considerably more contracts than we accepted last year to make that reduction.

I want to call your attention to another thing -- TIME! This is the 25th day of January. The planting season is rapidly approaching in the southern part of the Belt, and farmers must soon decide whether they are going to sign the cotton adjustment contract, or attempt to go it alone.

There is no use to mince words about the cotton program. You are either for it, or you are against it. There is no half-way ground. If the success of last year's program means anything at all it means that farmers have it in their power to decide the future of the Cotton Belt.

The problem confronting the cotton farmer is the mountain of cotton that still lies between him and better prices. That's the issue. There is no dodging it -- and no way around. We have no alternative except to reduce production until the mills of the world have had time to use up some of that surplus and get the supply in line with normal demand.

Last year's program, profitable as it was, did not solve the supply problem. The big supply of cotton is still with us, and will remain with us until we work out a satisfactory adjustment between supply and demand. And that's what the 1934 program proposes to do. It offers farmers an opportunity to reduce their cotton acreage, and to be reimbursed for doing it so we may adjust the production of American cotton to the demands of the world.

That, briefly, is the problem. It is a simple statement of the facts. I'm laying these facts before you, not in the form of an appeal, but as a cold, business proposition so you can see how urgent is the need for action.

(over)

I have been from one end of the Cotton Belt to the other in the last 30 days. I have talked with literally hundreds of actual farmers and farm leaders. There is a determined desire among farmers to shake off the bondage of other years, and to accept the new deal.

That reminds me of something that I want to refer to -- something that perhaps has not been properly emphasized. It's the manner in which this year's rental payments will be made.

If you know anything at all about the production of cotton, you know that the bulk of our cotton has always been produced on credit. That has been the practice ever since the Civil War. The adjustment program was definitely designed to remedy that situation, and to help put the South on a cash basis. Here's the way it works. The plan of the new program is to make the rental payment in two installments. The first payment of approximately 50 million dollars will be made in time to help finance the production of this year's crop.

The second payment of another 50 million dollars will be made in time to help finance picking this fall. And the parity payment of something like 25 or 30 million dollars will be made in December when the need for money for taxes, and other end-of-the year bills is pressing.

Let me give you just one example of how that plan will work. Dean Schaub of the North Carolina College of Agriculture has figured that the rentals in his State will average about 11 dollars an acre. Now let's take a farmer who grows an average of about 20 acres of cotton a year. Under the plan he reduces his production 40 percent, or from 20 to 12 acres, and rents 8 acres to the Secretary of Agriculture. He gets a rental of 11 dollars an acre, or a total of 88 dollars in rental payments. Half of that amount, or 44 dollars, will be paid in time to enable him to pay at least some cash for fertilizer and other things needed to plant the crop. The other 44 dollars will be paid in time to help finance the picking next fall. And the parity payment of around 25 million dollars will be made in December to help him pay his taxes.

But there is an "if" in that. Those rental payments will be made in time to help finance operations this spring if the contracts are signed, and received in Washington in time to get out the checks. No rental checks can be sent out until the offers are in and accepted by the Secretary. So the quicker you sign the contracts and start them to Washington, the sooner you will get your rental checks.

A personnel of trained workers -- held over from last summer -- is waiting to check your contracts, and make out your rental checks. There will be no delay in getting out your checks this year if you'll get the contracts in on time. But the payments are bound to be delayed unless all you work with utmost speed. Don't wait for somebody to look you up. Get the required information and take it to town and sign the contract in the county agent's office. You can sign a contract anytime. All you need is a contract and the required information. And when you get through with your contract, turn it in to your local officers, and pitch in and help somebody else, so that we can finish the job, and you can get your first rental payment without delay.

Don't forget that we are enjoying better times in most parts of the Cotton Belt this winter simply because we turned under 10 million acres of

growing cotton last summer.

Don't forget that the price of cotton one year ago today -- on the 25th of January, 1933, was 6 cents a pound. The price on the 10 leading cotton markets yesterday was 11 and a half cents a pound. That's a difference of 5 and a half cents or 27 and a half dollars a bale.

In terms of dollars and cents the 1933 cotton crop was the most valuable crop that we have produced since the boom year of 1929 when the average price of cotton was nearly 17 cents a pound. The 1933 crop after the reduction was worth almost twice as much as it would have been without the program.

And now in conclusion, let me urge you to sign a contract before the end of the month if you want to get your rental check in time to help finance this year's crop.

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Release when delivered

A SUCCESSFUL COTTON PROGRAM

Radio talk by Oscar Johnston, manager cotton option pool, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, delivered over the C. B. S. Dixie Network at 8:15 p.m.
January 30, 1934

In connection with the 1934-1935 cotton acreage reduction program, so much misinformation is being circulated throughout the Cotton Belt, so much speculation is being indulged in, usually by persons with no basic information upon the subject and so many and such varied interpretations are being put upon pending legislation, that it is my purpose to use the 15 minutes so courteously allowed us by the Columbia Broadcasting System, in an effort to give the cotton producers of America accurate information regarding the progress of the acreage reduction campaign and regarding the attitude of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in the premises.

First, let me say to you that reports coming in to the Department from the field are highly satisfactory and indicate that it is the purpose of at least 90 percent of the producers of cotton to sign the 1934-1935 contract pledging an average acreage reduction of 40 percent under the 5-year normally planted acreage. The Administration entertains not the slightest doubt as to the intention on the part of the producers of cotton to bring about the acreage reduction which is

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sought by the contract now offered. The Administration is not frightened by stories of the intention of producers to increase the quantity of fertilizer normally used, nor the many tales concerning the purchase of mules and agricultural implements in the South. Neither do we see anything in the situation to indicate prospects for an abnormal yield. Every practical farmer knows that the yield which is realized in the Fall is dependent upon many, many factors beyond human control. We know that the average per acre yield of cotton throughout the Belt was below 175 pounds per acre during many years in which the price of cotton was well above 20 cents per pound. We know that in those years a maximum quantity of fertilizer was used and that farmers as a whole were well supplied with stock and implements with which to farm. In 1921, fertilizer was used extensively and yet America produced less than 8,000,000 bales of cotton on 40 million acres. The fact that the farmers of the Cotton Belt are purchasing mules is not necessarily an indication of any intention on the part of those farmers to increase their cotton acreage. It must be borne in mind that during the 3 years preceding the one just ended, cotton has been marketed far below the cost of production, cotton producers have been unable to meet their obligations and utterly unable to replace worn out and lost live stock and implements. A more prosperous condition, resulting from the heavy yield of 1933, the improved price and the proceeds of rental payments and benefits made by the Government, have enabled farmers to replace both live stock and implements. The fact that the producer leaves out of cotton production 40 percent of his acreage, does not mean that he proposes to let this acreage go uncultivated. It is his purpose to produce such crops on this acreage as are permitted under his contract and for this purpose, he will need both live stock, implements and fertilizer

The hundreds of thousands of cotton producers throughout the South who have signed or who intend to sign the 1934-1935 contract, entertain a feeling of resentment

toward those producers who refuse to cooperate in the efforts being put forth by the Department of Agriculture to restore prosperity to the Cotton Belt and this feeling is crystallizing into a demand on the part of those who are cooperating for some form of legislation under which the non-cooperating producer may be restrained from increasing his cotton production or compelled to cooperate. The enactment of such legislation is a matter that addresses itself peculiarly and primarily to our national Congress. Sundry measures are being studied and considered by members of the Senate and House of Representatives of Congress. These measures are also being given careful study by the officials of the Department of Agriculture. An effort, at this time, is being made to ascertain the will or the wish of the cotton producers of America upon this subject. These facts, however, are not to be construed as an evidence of lack of confidence on the part of the Administration in the program upon which it is engaged, nor as evidencing the slightest doubt in the minds of the officials of the Administration as to the ultimate success of the program now being prosecuted. If legislation can be devised under which a 100 percent cooperation may be had, well and good; if such legislation cannot be enacted, then the producers of the South, as well as the Department of Agriculture, must depend upon public sentiment to bring a recalcitrant minority into proper cooperation.

When the 1934-1935 cotton acreage reduction contract was prepared, the statement was made that the Secretary would not accept contracts unless by January 31, 1934, a number of acres of cotton land should have been offered him sufficient in his judgment to make the acreage reduction plan for 1934 and 1935 feasible. At that time it was contemplated that these contracts and all appropriate regulations and supplies would be in the hands of the workers in the field early in December. Delay was encountered, it was found impossible to get the campaign properly into the field until well into January, in fact, many counties were without appropriate

supplies and instructions until the middle of the month. Because of this delay, field workers have not had the opportunity of making contact with thousands of farmers throughout the Belt; county agents with limited clerical forces have found it impossible to make complete and accurate tabulations, county committees have not had the opportunity to study the various contract submitted to them. Because of the facts stated, the Secretary of Agriculture has decided to extend the time from January 31 to February 15 for declaring his acceptance of the contracts which are tendered to that date. This extension of time is not because of any difficulty being experienced in the field in getting farmers to sign the acreage reduction contract but is purely because of the physical, mechanical difficulties in seeing more than a million farmers working out their respective rentals, tabulating the contracts and making appropriate reports to the Department. The original contract stipulated that no land would be taken into consideration where the five year average production was less than 100 pounds of lint cotton per acre. To meet a situation prevailing largely in certain sections of the western part of the Belt, it has been decided to lower this figure to 75 pounds lint per acre, thus permitting producers in those sections where unusually low yields prevail, to have the benefit of the contract.

The cotton farmer today occupies a peculiarly fortunate position. By his cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, he has won the battle of 1933, he has seen the price of cotton go from below 6 cents to above 11 cents, an improvement of \$25 per bale in a single season, has seen the carry-over of cotton reduced more than 2 million bales but the fight is just begun. If he is to avoid falling back into the slough of despond from which he is now emerging, if he is to retain the benefits that have already accrued to him, if he is to go forward to prosperity and independence, it now behooves him to cooperate 100 percent with the spirit and letter of the program which is now being presented to him.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the origin of life. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science.

2. The second part of the paper is devoted to a detailed discussion of the various theories of the origin of life. It is shown that the most plausible theory is that of the spontaneous generation of life from non-living matter.

3. The third part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the evidence in favor of the spontaneous generation of life. It is shown that the evidence is very strong and conclusive.

4. The fourth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various objections to the spontaneous generation of life. It is shown that the objections are all unavailing and that the spontaneous generation of life is the only reasonable explanation of the origin of life.

5. The fifth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various theories of the evolution of life. It is shown that the most plausible theory is that of the gradual evolution of life from simple to complex forms.

6. The sixth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the evidence in favor of the gradual evolution of life. It is shown that the evidence is very strong and conclusive.

7. The seventh part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various objections to the gradual evolution of life. It is shown that the objections are all unavailing and that the gradual evolution of life is the only reasonable explanation of the origin of life.

The recent change in our monetary syzttem is particularly beneficial to the cotton grower. It enables him to sell his cotton abroad in the markets of the world in competition with foreign growths, and at the same time, get the benefit of a higher price in dollars. For example, cotton that is netting the farmer 11 cents today is being sold in Europe at 7 cents gold plus carrying charges. The export of cotton is holding well in line with pre-war levels. Cotton is today the sole and only agricultural product produced in America that is being exported on a pre-war basis. Because of national economic improvement, domestic consumption is good. Indications now are that we will consume $14\frac{1}{2}$ million bales during the current year which ends with July 31st, thus bringing the carry-over from the peak of 13,228,000 bales, August 1, 1932, to an estimated 10,200,000 bales, August 1, 1934, a reduction of 3 million bales. Of this estimated carry-over, not less than 3 million bales will be in the hands of the spinners of the world; approximately 2 million bales will be held in the Cotton Producers' Pool for the benefit of those who participated in the 1933 program. A 1934 crop of more than $10\frac{1}{2}$ million bales will, other conditions remaining normal, spell disaster for the Cotton Belt. It will bring down the price of cotton; some 450,000 producers who own the Cotton Pool and the hundreds of thousands of producers who expect an equity above the 10 cents borrowed from the Commodity Credit Corporation and the banks, under the 10-cent loan plan, would lose their equities, see their options fail and will market the crop which is produced, at a serious loss. I state these facts to impress upon you the necessity for cooperation in the plan now before you. You are fortunate in that the money now being advanced on account of the options and to date checks for nearly \$40,000,000 have been mailed, will take care of immediate needs; your first 1934 rental is to be paid you in April, your next payment in August. This series of payments of rentals and benefits makes you independent of the money lenders, gives to you a degree of independence never before experienced by the producers of cotton.

Concluding, let me urge that you be not misled or deceived by rumors and gossip, that you cooperate 100 percent with the Department of Agriculture in the program now before you, relying implicitly upon the purpose of this Administration to take every action and do everything humanly possible to improve your position and to bring the price of cotton at least to pre-war parity.

I say to you in all earnestness, that I personally believe that the program now presented you will be carried through to a successful conclusion--I know that it will if the Department has that degree of sincere and honest cooperation which prevailed in connection with the 1933 program.

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THE COTTON CAMPAIGN EXTENDED

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A radio talk by Cully A. Cobb, chief, cotton section, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour, and broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations Wednesday, January 31, 1934.

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Ladies and gentlemen of the Cotton Belt:

The cotton campaign that was to have closed to day has been officially extended until the 15th of February. That's two weeks from tomorrow.

It was extended at the request of several States where the sign-up was delayed due to programs on tobacco, and corn and hogs, and due to the finishing up of the cotton option program.

Another reason for extending the time is to give farmers whose average acreage yield, because of crop failures a year or two of the base period, is between 75 and 100 pounds, an opportunity to get in. At the urgent request for thousands of farmers the acreage yield limit was lowered yesterday, from 100 to 75 pounds. And naturally it will take a little time for farmers who couldn't sign a contract under the old yield limit of 100 pounds to get the required information and sign up under the new limit of 75 pounds.

Then, too, the sign-up is just naturally taking extra time this year, because we are asking that the contracts be filled out before they are sent to Washington so they won't have to be returned for corrections. We can't use rough estimates.

We were forced to sign the contracts in a hurry last year on account of time. And although a surprisingly small number had to be returned for corrections, considering we received a million, yet we don't want to return any this year if we can help it. We want to send out checks instead of return contracts. And if you'll be careful in giving the required information, and in filling out the contract, there is no reason why your information shouldn't stand.

We have all profited by last year's experience, and we sincerely hope that when your contract leaves your county for Washington that it will be correct in every sense and that it will not have to be returned for corrections.

The big announcement that you are waiting for is--- How is the campaign coming along? The answer is one word---- Fine. Listen now and I'll give you some of the results.

Three of the leading cotton producing states practically had their acreage quotas last night. Those states are Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Tennessee could go over the top today or tomorrow if necessary. And Arkansas expects to have her quota by the 10th of February.

Texas after getting off to a late start has made the most spectacular gains of any of the states in the last few days. The sign-up in Texas last

(over)

week in the face of the unfavorable weather averaged a little better than 230 thousand acres a day.

Taking the Belt as a whole, the sign-up has made good progress. The reports that have come in thus far indicate that a thorough job is being done, and that all the main cotton producing states will reach their acreage quotas all right.

But the work is not over. Due to delays in getting started on account of finishing up other programs, and to the request from several states to extend the time, we are extending the campaign until the 15th of February to give the workers an opportunity to clean up everything, and to give every cotton farmer in the South an opportunity to sign a contract.

If you haven't already signed a cotton reduction contract, let me urge you to do that at once. Delay in the field delays us here. Your signature on a cotton contract is a vote for independence. And if you haven't signed, think it over, and join the thousands of farmers whose contracts are rolling on toward Washington.

And remember that the longer you put off signing the contract, the longer you'll be getting your first payment check in the spring. So if you want your first payment check in time to help finance the planting of this year's crop, get your contract in as soon as possible.

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THE COTTON ADJUSTMENT SITUATION

Reasons for this Supply

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A radio interview between Frank L. Teuton, Radio Service, and Lawrence Myers, Bureau Agr. Economics, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home, Monday, January 22, 1934.

Mrs Runkle says this is not 1392 publication
(Feb 21 '39)

TEUTON:

Mr. Myers, you're working on the economic side of the cotton adjustment program aren't you?

MYERS:

Yes.

TEUTON:

Well now, Mr. Myers, the cotton program appears to be a tremendous undertaking. Just why are the reductions so great?

MYERS:

The reduction last year was large, and the one aimed for this year is even larger, but you must remember the surplus we are trying to eliminate is also large. The cotton surplus had grown and grown and grown over a period of years and we must get rid of it as quickly as possible.

TEUTON:

Well I suppose it's perfectly clear to you just why our supply of American cotton is so much bigger than it ought to be, but it isn't so clear to a lot of people. Won't you explain that situation so that we may better understand the need for the present cotton adjustment program?

MYERS:

Well, for several years production has been rather heavy -- not altogether uncontrolled for we have reduced our acreage a small amount, but the reduction has not been enough to meet the situation. (Teuton cuts in)

TEUTON:

That's just the point, we have reduced our production of cotton. Last year we plowed up 10 million acres, or one-fourth of the crop, and now they tell us that we must go further, and reduce this year's crop 40 per cent below the 5-year average. That's what people want explained.

(over)

MYERS:

All right, I'll explain it all by giving you a picture of the changes that have taken place in the Cotton Belt in the last 10 or 15 years. Turn your memory back to 1921, 1922, and 1923. What was happening in the Cotton Belt then?

TEUTON:

Why --- oh, that was when the boll weevil was doing the greatest damage, wasn't it?

MYERS:

Exactly. And that was the beginning of the supply situation that we are trying to adjust now. When the boll weevil struck the heart of the Cotton Belt in 1921, '22, and '23, it cut cotton yields in some states as much as 35 and 40 per-cent.

We had short crops for a few years. In fact, at one time there was an acute shortage of cotton. Naturally, as the shortage became acute, cotton prices rose to unusually high levels. This caused an expansion of the Cotton Belt in the sections that were not affected by the weevils.

TEUTON:

Was the expansion in cotton acreage important?

MYERS:

Yes, very important. There was a noticeable increase in cotton acreage in Virginia and Missouri, a big increase in Texas and Oklahoma, and also increases in foreign countries. But while we were extending the Cotton Belt to get away from boll weevils, something else was going on.

TEUTON:

What was it?

MYERS:

The older cotton growing sections were learning to live with the weevil.

TEUTON:

Did they succeed?

MYERS:

They did. And their success turned thousands of acres of land back in to the production of cotton. So we found ourselves faced with about a normal acreage in the old cotton area, plus a big expansion in the western part of the Belt, and an increased acreage abroad. Cotton production was running around 12 million bales a year when the weevil hit. The crop was cut to 8 million bales in 1921. It rose to 13 million bales in 1924, to 16 million bales in 1925, and to an all-time record of nearly 18 million bales in 1926.

TEUTON:

That sounds like a lot of cotton.

MYERS:

It was too much cotton. And our supply rose like a little branch after a big rain.

But we managed to work down the big carryover from the 18 million bale crop in 1926, because that was a period of booming business, and because we had a short crop the following year. The carryover that burdens us now developed mostly in 1929.

TEUTON:

What is a normal carryover, anyway?

MYERS:

Around 5 million bales. The world needs that amount of American cotton to tide it over between crops.

TEUTON:

What was our carryover, say back in 1929 at the beginning of the depression?

MYERS:

Four and a half million bales. And that was about normal. But it didn't stay there. It rose from 4 and a half million bales in 1929 to 6 million bales in 1930, to 9 million bales in 1931, and finally to 13 million bales in 1932. And after a period of heavy mill consumption, the cotton carryover on August 1, 1933, amounted to nearly 12 million bales. And that is more than twice the size of the carryover in 1929.

TEUTON:

So our supply trouble started back in 1929, did it?

MYERS:

No, the trouble started before that. The groundwork was laid for it when the acreage was increased during the period from 1922 to 1926. While the world was prosperous, however, it was able to use large amounts of cotton. The record crop of 1926 showed what was happening, but the bottom didn't fall out of prices until the depression hit us. Our big supply of cotton plus the world-wide industrial depression was too much. Our production was scaled to a high figure, and we couldn't scale it down fast enough, and adjust ourselves to the changing conditions. The calamity followed, and cotton farmers sent out the S.O.S.

TEUTON:

You say it took several years for our cotton supply to reach the present high level?

MYERS:

Yes, and that's a point I'd like to emphasize. We are trying to undo in one or two years a situation that has been developing for 12 years. However, every effort must be made to correct the situation quickly. That explains why farmers joined together to take out 25 per cent of last year's crop, and why they are planning a 40 per cent reduction in this year's crop. The aim is to get back on a normal basis as soon as possible.

TEUTON:

Do you think that a wise thing to do from an economic standpoint?

MYERS:

I'll answer that question by asking you one. Do you think it a wise thing to do from an economic standpoint to bankrupt the South by producing big crops in the face of our large stocks of cotton?

TEUTON:

No, I don't.

MYERS:

I don't either. We can't run the risk of throwing the South into another chaotic condition like we had at the beginning of 1933.

TEUTON:

Well, do you think our present cotton program will keep us from going back into the ditch?

MYERS:

I think experience to date should give the answer to that question. Last summer we were faced with an oncoming crop of over 18 1/2 million bales. It is the general opinion that a crop of that size would have given us a price of around 5 cents a pound. The emergency cotton program held the crop to nearly 13 million bales and the price has been around 10 cents a pound. Now the South is coming out of the depression faster probably than any other part of the country. And if last year's emergency program, that was hurriedly drawn and more hurriedly executed, helped the South and the cotton situation that much, isn't it reasonable to believe that this year's program will have a good effect also?

TEUTON:

Yes, I think--- But tell me this: I've heard a great many people say that if we decrease production too much, foreign countries will increase production to make up for our decrease. Is there any danger in that?

MYERS:

Well, that depends on how much this country cuts its production. If we were to cut our production until another acute shortage developed as it did in 1922 and 1923, foreign production would undoubtedly increase. But that is not the plan of the cotton program. The aim is to reduce production only until the supply is in line with the market requirements. The program aims to eliminate the surplus but not to create a shortage.

TEUTON:

The United States still produces, the bulk of the world's cotton, doesn't it?

MYERS:

Yes, we produce over half the total cotton crop of the world, and of course, we produce far more than any other one country.

TEUTON:

Can you give us the figures on world production?

MYERS:

Yes. We'll place our production at 14 million bales. Then comes India with 4 and a half million bales. China with 2 million bales, Russia and Egypt with about a million and a half bales each, Brazil with about a half million bales, Peru with about 200 thousand, and so on down the line.

TEUTON:

Well, Myers, is acreage control the only way out of this cotton situation?

MYERS:

No, there are two other alternatives. Our cotton farmers could turn loose and produce 18 or 20 million bales of cotton a year. Or we could act as though we were the only cotton producing country in the world and restrict production until there was a drastic shortage. But neither one of those plans would work long. So we have chosen a middle ground -- that of adjusted or controlled production -- a kind of live and let live program that will adjust our production so that farmers can get satisfactory prices, without driving foreign countries out of the picture. The present program is simply a plan to bring our production in line with market requirements. And to provide the producer with a satisfactory price so that he can go on producing cotton. In order to accomplish this, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration will pay farmers for keeping land out of cotton.

TEUTON:

Well, that sounds pretty clear to me, Mr. Myers, but I wish you would run over the main reasons for our big supply of cotton once more so that we may better understand the need for this year's program.

MYERS:

Four occurrences led up to the present surplus of cotton. First, the severe damage from boll weevil in 1921 to 1923. Second, the expansion in our cotton acreage. Third, the increase in foreign competition; and fourth, the depression. More important than any of these, however, is a fact that I have not mentioned. Heretofore, agriculture has had no means of adjusting production in an organized way. It had to face tremendous changes during the past 15 years with no adequate way of adjusting itself to them. In fact, agriculture has been in the position of an automobile without breaks. In that condition it was not able to check production when the depression came. The result was the cotton surplus.

TEUTON:

In a word then, our real difficulty goes back to the fact that cotton acreage was increased too much as a result of the boll weevil years, and our farmers could not stop producing cotton when the depression came. Is that right?

MYERS:

Yes.

TEUTON:

One more question then: Do you really think that production can be controlled?

MYERS:

Last summer farmers plowed up over 10 million acres of cotton and reduced the crop 4 1/2 million bales. If they could do that, then surely they can keep enough acreage out of cotton to eliminate the present surplus.

TEUTON:

Well, that's fine, Mr. Myers, and I'm sure we all thank you for this very clear explanation of why our cotton supply is so big.

All right, Morse.

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SECRETARY DECLARES 1934 COTTON PROGRAM OPERATIVE

A radio talk by C. A. Cobb, chief of cotton section, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, Friday, February 16, 1934, broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations.

--ooOoo--

Ladies and gentlemen of the Cotton Belt:

Secretary Wallace announced last night that the sign-up in the 1934 cotton adjustment campaign is a success. Through the cooperation of farmers throughout the Cotton Belt a sufficient acreage has been offered, and the Secretary of Agriculture has accepted the offers and declared the program in operation. This means that our second attempt to adjust the production of cotton to effective demand has met with overwhelming support.

I am, of course, deeply gratified. It is heartening to know that cotton producers who are the pioneers in the programs of adjustment have again demonstrated their willingness to cooperate with their neighbors and their Government for the common welfare.

While the campaign is officially over, the opportunity still remains for those who have not yet signed contracts to do so. We have advised the field forces to give every producer an opportunity to sign a contract. A reasonable time will be permitted for completing this work. But I want to emphasize the tremendous importance of completing these contracts at the earliest possible moment and getting them to Washington for Administrative review and approval. It has been our hope that the first rental payments, of approximately 50 million dollars, can be distributed in time to help finance the planting of this year's crop. The distribution of the first checks is a matter that rests with the producers themselves. The earlier the contracts are completed and sent to Washington, the sooner the checks will be distributed. In extending my congratulations to the hundreds of thousands of cotton producers and citizens of the South for making this second program a success, I would at the same time urge you not to let up until every contract is completed and forwarded to Washington.

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THE FIRST 1934 COTTON CHECKS

A radio talk by Cully A. Cobb, Chief, Cotton Section, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, delivered in the Department of Agriculture periodic National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 50 associate NBC radio stations, Thursday, March 15, 1934.

--oo00oo--

Ladies and gentlemen of the Cotton Belt:

Four weeks ago I appeared before this microphone and told you that if you would get your cotton contracts to Washington on time that we would make the first rental payments during March and April, in time to help finance the planting of this year's crop.

I'm facing the same microphone today to tell you that we're living up to that promise. I am having the pleasure today of dropping the first batch of rental payment checks into the mail. Those checks are now "on their way."

The first check went to Leroy Jones, a small cash tenant farmer of Hillman, Georgia. He agreed to keep 4 of his 11 cotton acres out of cotton this year. His average yield is given at 104 pounds of lint cotton per acre, and his first rental check --- the one that was mailed today amounted to \$3.64. He'll get another check for the same amount in the fall. And in addition to that a parity payment of \$4.78 in December. Altogether, he will get a total of \$12.06 for keeping 4 acres of rather low-yielding land out of cotton this year.

The first batch of 38 rental payment checks that were mailed today amount to \$1,609.16. They will reach their destinations in a few days. Other checks will follow, as fast as the contracts can be reviewed and certified, until every payment is made.

Naturally, it takes time to review and certify the contracts for payment. That's why we urged you to sign early and promptly. And while it's probable that the late contracts will be among the last to be approved and certified for payment, yet I want to assure you that we deeply appreciate the fine spirit of friendly cooperation that you manifested during the sign-up and that we will do everything we can to hurry your check. But we can't make payment until a contract is reviewed and certified.

Incomplete returns show that farmers have agreed to keep more than 15 million acres of land out of cotton this year.

What does that mean?

Listen, and I'll tell you. The average bale of cotton weighs around 500 pounds. The 10-year average yield has been 167 pounds of lint cotton per acre. On that basis, and assuming that we have a normal season and a normal yield, this year's reduction program that keeps more than 15 million acres of land out of cotton will prevent more than 5 and a quarter million bales of cotton from maturing and reaching the market to compete with a surplus carryover already far too big.

(over)



Five million bales is a strong one-third of a normal crop. So the success of this, the second successive program to control production will give the world a chance to use up some of the surplus carryover of American cotton that has been too big for several years. It means limited production until there is a healthy balance between supply and demand.

This is the second time that cotton farmers have gone "over the top," to victory. And the great number of contracts that have been signed clearly indicate that cotton farmers know what they are doing, and that they are definitely and collectively pulling together for a better balance between supply and demand and for better times in the Cotton Belt.

Now a word about adjusting farm conditions to the new program.

This is the 15th of March. Planting time is rapidly approaching, yet some farmers are still up against the problem of readjusting their business to meet the new conditions.

If you are undecided on some matter of policy, stop and ask yourself this question --- Why was the cotton adjustment program enacted anyway? It was enacted to raise the price of cotton. That was the main reason, and all else is secondary to that. It is better price that will lift the South out of its troubles. And if you'll think of the whole program in that light it'll help you to think clearly, to plan intelligently, and to work toward a definite goal. If in doubt, do the things that tend to help boost the price of cotton, and leave undone the things that would tend to pull the price down.

One of the best things that you can do to clear up doubts and misunderstandings is to get out your copy of the contract and read it over carefully. You remember there were 3 copies of the contract you signed. A white copy for Washington. A blue copy for the county files, and a cream colored copy for yourself. Those copies are all alike, and in most cases you can find out exactly what to do or not to do by carefully reading the contract.

For example, if you are in doubt about planting cotton on land that is not covered by a contract, read article 2 on the first page.

If the food and feed crop problems are bothering you, read article 5 at the bottom of the first page.

And if you are worried over the tenant situation, read article 7.

Read the contract over until you are familiar with the main parts, and then remember that the object of the whole program is to raise the price of cotton, and that everything else is secondary to that.

I find it most helpful to get out a copy of the cotton contract occasionally, and read it over myself. It helps me to plan and adjust in the proper light, and I believe it will do the same thing for you.

Try it and see.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COTTON FARMER.

A radio discussion by members of the Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, in the National Farm and Home Hour, Thursday, April 12, 1934, broadcast by a network of 50 associate NBC stations.

--ooOoo--

SALISBURY:

Ladies and gentlemen, we have quite a program today on cotton. Frank Teuton has brought a number of well known cotton people before the microphone to tell us about the opportunities the adjustment program offers cotton farmers to produce better cotton, and to produce it more efficiently. I'm going to turn the microphone over to Frank and let him act as master of ceremonies. All right, Frank

TEUTON:

Thanks, Morse, and how do you do, Farm and Home listeners. During the next few minutes you will hear the voices of Cully A. Cobb, Joseph A. Cox, and Paul A. Porter of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Arthur W. Palmer, C. B. Doyle R. W. Harned, and Mrs. Ola Powell Malcolm of the Department of Agriculture discussing the opportunities the 1934 cotton adjustment program offers farmers to produce better cotton and to produce it more efficiently. Mr. Cobb, can you give us a brief summary of the sign-up campaign that closed a few weeks ago?

COBB:

Yes, I can. It was a big success. We hoped to get about 15 million acres of land taken out of cotton --- and we got it. We asked for a reduction of between 35 and 45 per cent, and we got about 38 per cent. The land taken out of production averaged 16 acres to the contract, and we received more than 950 thousand contracts.

TEUTON:

Mr. Cobb, what is the real object of the cotton adjustment program anyway? Is it to reduce production, or to raise the price of cotton?

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COBB:

To raise the price of cotton -- or to be more accurate, to increase the buying power of cotton. If you'll read the Agricultural Adjustment Act you'll see that the object is to raise the price, or buying power, of cotton and other agricultural products, and that the reduction programs are only means to that end.

TEUTON:

Then soil-improvement, live-at-home programs and all those other things are secondary to raising the price of cotton--- is that right, Mr. Cobb?

COBB:

Exactly right. And I hope we don't forget it.

TEUTON:

Thank you, Mr. Cobb.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, Joseph A. Cox, chief of the replacement crop section of the Adjustment Administration, is before the microphone to tell us again what we may or may not plant on the rented acres. Mr. Cox, why is there so much talk about the use of the rented acres in the Cotton Belt?

COX:

Well, I believe part of it at least is due to the fact that some people have the idea that they ought to produce all their food and feed crops on the rented acres.

TEUTON:

Well, isn't that true?

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COX:

No. You just heard Mr. Cobb say it isn't. The main object of the program is to raise the price of cotton. And in planting less acres to cotton, you have more acres left, and you can use those acres for soil-improvement, pastures, food and feed crops, and for the other uses mentioned in the cotton contract. Producing food and feed for the family is a farm-wide program, and is not to be confined to the rented acres. Think of producing the family living on the entire farm rather than just on the rented acres. Share croppers and share renters who for the most part have grown cotton only are permitted by the cotton contract to grow food and feed crops for their family use on the contracted acreage -- a program of great benefit to a large number of folks in the South.

Use the rented acres, of course, where that is necessary, but don't use the rented acres for food and feed and release other acres for planting to cash crops for sale. Make the most of the opportunity by planting some of the rented acres to soil-improving crops, by planting some to pasture, some to erosion preventing crops, and so on down the line. Balance your crops, and put farming on a safe and sane basis, and look to the future by improving some of the land, as well as producing food and feed for home use.

TEUTON:

Very clear, Mr. Cox, and I'm sure we got the lesson.

And now we shift from rented acres to money. Paul A. Porter, chief of the Adjustment Administration's press service, is making his way to the microphone to tell us about the opportunity the adjustment program offers cotton farmers to bid farewell to credit, that old demon that has stalked the Cotton Belt for a hundred years. Paul, how does the adjustment program offer cotton farmers an opportunity to get on a cash basis?

1910. 1911. 1912. 1913. 1914. 1915. 1916. 1917. 1918. 1919. 1920. 1921. 1922. 1923. 1924. 1925. 1926. 1927. 1928. 1929. 1930. 1931. 1932. 1933. 1934. 1935. 1936. 1937. 1938. 1939. 1940. 1941. 1942. 1943. 1944. 1945. 1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961. 1962. 1963. 1964. 1965. 1966. 1967. 1968. 1969. 1970. 1971. 1972. 1973. 1974. 1975. 1976. 1977. 1978. 1979. 1980. 1981. 1982. 1983. 1984. 1985. 1986. 1987. 1988. 1989. 1990. 1991. 1992. 1993. 1994. 1995. 1996. 1997. 1998. 1999. 2000. 2001. 2002. 2003. 2004. 2005. 2006. 2007. 2008. 2009. 2010. 2011. 2012. 2013. 2014. 2015. 2016. 2017. 2018. 2019. 2020. 2021. 2022. 2023. 2024. 2025. 2026. 2027. 2028. 2029. 2030. 2031. 2032. 2033. 2034. 2035. 2036. 2037. 2038. 2039. 2040. 2041. 2042. 2043. 2044. 2045. 2046. 2047. 2048. 2049. 2050. 2051. 2052. 2053. 2054. 2055. 2056. 2057. 2058. 2059. 2060. 2061. 2062. 2063. 2064. 2065. 2066. 2067. 2068. 2069. 2070. 2071. 2072. 2073. 2074. 2075. 2076. 2077. 2078. 2079. 2080. 2081. 2082. 2083. 2084. 2085. 2086. 2087. 2088. 2089. 2090. 2091. 2092. 2093. 2094. 2095. 2096. 2097. 2098. 2099. 2100. 2101. 2102. 2103. 2104. 2105. 2106. 2107. 2108. 2109. 2110. 2111. 2112. 2113. 2114. 2115. 2116. 2117. 2118. 2119. 2120. 2121. 2122. 2123. 2124. 2125. 2126. 2127. 2128. 2129. 2130. 2131. 2132. 2133. 2134. 2135. 2136. 2137. 2138. 2139. 2140. 2141. 2142. 2143. 2144. 2145. 2146. 2147. 2148. 2149. 2150. 2151. 2152. 2153. 2154. 2155. 2156. 2157. 2158. 2159. 2160. 2161. 2162. 2163. 2164. 2165. 2166. 2167. 2168. 2169. 2170. 2171. 2172. 2173. 2174. 2175. 2176. 2177. 2178. 2179. 2180. 2181. 2182. 2183. 2184. 2185. 2186. 2187. 2188. 2189. 2190. 2191. 2192. 2193. 2194. 2195. 2196. 2197. 2198. 2199. 2200. 2201. 2202. 2203. 2204. 2205. 2206. 2207. 2208. 2209. 2210. 2211. 2212. 2213. 2214. 2215. 2216. 2217. 2218. 2219. 2220. 2221. 2222. 2223. 2224. 2225. 2226. 2227. 2228. 2229. 2230. 2231. 2232. 2233. 2234. 2235. 2236. 2237. 2238. 2239. 2240. 2241. 2242. 2243. 2244. 2245. 2246. 2247. 2248. 2249. 2250. 2251. 2252. 2253. 2254. 2255. 2256. 2257. 2258. 2259. 2260. 2261. 2262. 2263. 2264. 2265. 2266. 2267. 2268. 2269. 2270. 2271. 2272. 2273. 2274. 2275. 2276. 2277. 2278. 2279. 2280. 2281. 2282. 2283. 2284. 2285. 2286. 2287. 2288. 2289. 2290. 2291. 2292. 2293. 2294. 2295. 2296. 2297. 2298. 2299. 2300. 2301. 2302. 2303. 2304. 2305. 2306. 2307. 2308. 2309. 2310. 2311. 2312. 2313. 2314. 2315. 2316. 2317. 2318. 2319. 2320. 2321. 2322. 2323. 2324. 2325. 2326. 2327. 2328. 2329. 2330. 2331. 2332. 2333. 2334. 2335. 2336. 2337. 2338. 2339. 2340. 2341. 2342. 2343. 2344. 2345. 2346. 2347. 2348. 2349. 2350. 2351. 2352. 2353. 2354. 2355. 2356. 2357. 2358. 2359. 2360. 2361. 2362. 2363. 2364. 2365. 2366. 2367. 2368. 2369. 2370. 2371. 2372. 2373. 2374. 2375. 2376. 2377. 2378. 2379. 2380. 2381. 2382. 2383. 2384. 2385. 2386. 2387. 2388. 2389. 2390. 2391. 2392. 2393. 2394. 2395. 2396. 2397. 2398. 2399. 2400. 2401. 2402. 2403. 2404. 2405. 2406. 2407. 2408. 2409. 2410. 2411. 2412. 2413. 2414. 2415. 2416. 2417. 2418. 2419. 2420. 2421. 2422. 2423. 2424. 2425. 2426. 2427. 2428. 2429. 2430. 2431. 2432. 2433. 2434. 2435. 2436. 2437. 2438. 2439. 2440. 2441. 2442. 2443. 2444. 2445. 2446. 2447. 2448. 2449. 2450. 2451. 2452. 2453. 2454. 2455. 2456. 2457. 2458. 2459. 2460. 2461. 2462. 2463. 2464. 2465. 2466. 2467. 2468. 2469. 2470. 2471. 2472. 2473. 2474. 2475. 2476. 2477. 2478. 2479. 2480. 2481. 2482. 2483. 2484. 2485. 2486. 2487. 2488. 2489. 2490. 2491. 2492. 2493. 2494. 2495. 2496. 2497. 2498. 2499. 2500. 2501. 2502. 2503. 2504. 2505. 2506. 2507. 2508. 2509. 2510. 2511. 2512. 2513. 2514. 2515. 2516. 2517. 2518. 2519. 2520. 2521. 2522. 2523. 2524. 2525. 2526. 2527. 2528. 2529. 2530. 2531. 2532. 2533. 2534. 2535. 2536. 2537. 2538. 2539. 2540. 2541. 2542. 2543. 2544. 2545. 2546. 2547. 2548. 2549. 2550. 2551. 2552. 2553. 2554. 2555. 2556. 2557. 2558. 2559. 2560. 2561. 2562. 2563. 2564. 2565. 2566. 2567. 2568. 2569. 2570. 2571. 2572. 2573. 2574. 2575. 2576. 2577. 2578. 2579. 2580. 2581. 2582. 2583. 2584. 2585. 2586. 2587. 2588. 2589. 2590. 2591. 25

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PORTER:

It sends 50 million dollars in rental payments into the Cotton Belt this spring, and in time to help finance the planting of the crop on many farms. The first installment of rental payment checks are going out now. I'll tell you how it's working in the State of Georgia. I have a friend near Atlanta who has been raising an average of about 20 acres of cotton each year for the last five years. But he's reducing this year. He's renting 8 acres to the Secretary and putting only 12 acres in cotton. On the 8 acres he's renting he will get a total rental payment of 70 dollars from the Government. Half of that amount, or 35 dollars, will be paid in time to help him buy fertilizer, and seed for this year's crop. He already has that check. And the other 35 dollars will be paid in time to help pay for the picking next fall. That's an actual example of how the program is helping farmers in one community to get on a cash basis.

TEUTON:

Fine, Paul. I hope farmers take advantage of that opportunity in other communities, too. Do you think they will, Mr. Cobb?

COBB:

I know I would, and I believe the majority of farmers will, too.

TEUTON:

What do you think about it, Mr. Cox?

COX:

Well, I've just returned from a trip that took me through the heart of the Cotton Belt. Cotton planters almost unanimously are making an effort to get their tenants on a cash basis. Many are organizing the garden program and aiding in securing cows for their tenants so they can have vegetables and milk for their families.

TEUTON:

But, Mr. Cox, won't that hurt the commercial dairyman?

COX:

Not at all. It's the only way many tenants can have milk. They can't afford to buy it, and if they can't produce it they do without. This is an opportunity for the commercial dairyman to sell some of his cows to farmers in the Cotton Belt who couldn't have milk any other way.

TEUTON:

That's fine, Mr. Cox.

Now folks, let's give the men a little recess, and join the women, and see what opportunities the program offers them. The person who is going to tell us about that is Mrs. Ola Powell Malcolm, extension field agent for the Cotton Belt. Mrs. Malcolm, are southern women taking advantage of the opportunity the adjustment program offers them to improve their conditions?

MALCOLM:

Yes, I believe they are. The State Home Demonstration Agents that met in Washington last fall said they were taking advantage of this opportunity to lay the foundation for better conditions in southern homes.

TEUTON:

How are they handling it, Mrs. Malcolm?

MALCOLM:

Well, it's a known fact that some women and children help to produce cotton. They can chop cotton in the spring, and they can pick the open cotton in the fall. So if we have less cotton to chop in the spring, and a smaller crop to harvest in the fall, the women and children will not be needed in the field and will have more time to devote to the home.

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MALCOLM (Continued):

It is estimated that half of the farm women work in the fields in some parts of the Cotton Belt. And no woman, regardless of how beautiful or how talented she may be, feels like making the extra effort to provide a comfortable and satisfactory home for the family when she chops cotton or drags a picking sack all day. So if less cotton means less field work for the woman, it will mean better homes because the woman will use the extra time to put up more canned goods, to raise more chickens, to make better gardens, and a happier living for her family.

TEUTON:

Can you give us examples of how this is working, Mrs. Malcolm?

MALCOLM:

Yes. The farm women in several southern States used their spare time during the low prices of cotton to make around 9,000 cotton mattresses for their homes.

TEUTON:

But, Mrs. Malcolm, didn't that take business away from the commercial mattress makers?

MALCOLM:

No. Many of the people who made those mattresses slept on straw, moss or cornshucks. And if they didn't make the mattress they couldn't buy it, so they would do without. But once they use mattresses they never go back to straw beds. The tendency is to buy manufactured mattresses when the home-made ones wear out. So in the end, it really creates more instead of less business for the commercial makers. Better mattresses calls for better rugs, better curtains and other improvements. One thing leads to another until a better and happier home is established.

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My dear Mr. ...
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the ...
and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.
I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. H. ...

Very truly yours,
J. H. ...

Yours very truly,
J. H. ...

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. H. ...

TEUTON:

What about the girls, Mrs. Malcolm, how can they take advantage of the opportunity that the cotton adjustment program offers?

MALCOLM:

By using their time to help improve and beautify their homes -- by remodeling old dresses, and making new ones. Most country girls know how to cook and sew. Give the average country girl a sewing machine, a little time, an old garment or a new piece of dress material, and you'll soon see her in town in a well-made dress of the latest design. She can get information on how to make and remodel her clothing from home demonstration agents, and from magazines and farm papers.

TEUTON:

And if the girls and women have more time you believe they will take advantages of that opportunity to do some of the things that every woman -- in her heart desires to do for her family -- is that it, Mrs. Malcolm?

MALCOLM:

Exactly. And I think Mr. Cobb, and Mr. Cox, and Mr. Porter will agree with me. --- What about it, Mr. Cobb?

COBB:

I do.

MALCOLM:

What do you say, Mr. Cox?

COX:

I agree with you.

MALCOLM:

And you, Mr. Porter?

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PORTER:

You are right, Mrs. Malcolm. The first aim of the cotton adjustment program is to stabilize the price of cotton, and to bring security to the rural family. In doing this we attain a measure of leisure that the women will undoubtedly use to improve conditions in the home.

TEUTON:

Thank you, Mrs. Malcolm. That's a good report.

Now let's turn to plant breeders, and talk about improving our cotton.

C. B. Doyle, cotton specialist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, is taking the microphone to tell us how farmers can use the extra time some of them will have this year to produce less and better cotton, and to produce it more efficiently. How about it, Mr. Doyle?

DOYLE:

The cotton adjustment program calls for fewer acres this year. Fewer acres mean less planting seed. If you don't have to use so much seed you can afford to use better seed. And since the use of good planting seed is one of the best ways to improve quality and lower the cost of production, why not take advantage of this opportunity to plant better seed this spring?

TEUTON:

You mean for every farmer to use better seed for his entire crop?

DOYLE:

Oh, no. Certainly not. That would be impossible in one year because there isn't enough good seed to go around. I mean for a farmer to use good seed for as much of his crop as he can this year, and the same variety of seed his neighbor uses who goes to the same gin, and do the same thing next year, and the next, and so on, increasing the good seed all the time. In other words, take

1. The first part of the paper

is devoted to a general discussion of the

principles of the method of moments

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DOYLE (Continued):

advantage of the opportunity to improve quality while we are planting fewer acres. Fewer acres means an opportunity to plant better seed, to practice better methods of cultivation, and better methods of using fertilizer----- (Teuton cuts in)

TEUTON:

What did you say about fertilizer, Mr. Doyle?

DOYLE:

The fertilizer specialists say that planting fewer acres gives a farmer more time to study his fertilizer problems, more time to apply it in the right way, and in the proper amounts and proportions for his land. These things make for more efficient production. And efficient production and better quality are two things we ought to consider in the production of our cotton crop.

TUETON:

Insects and diseases play an important part in the production of cotton, too. Mr. R. W. Harned who is in charge of the cotton insect division of the Bureau of Entomology, is taking the microphone to tell us about that. Mr. Harned, does the cotton adjustment program offer farmers an opportunity to reduce losses from cotton insects?

HARNED:

Yes, I believe it offers that opportunity. It's a known fact that boll weevil damage is less in the center of big fields, and in fields in large cleared areas than it is in small fields and around the edges of fields adjoining woods where the weevils find protection during the winter. And since farmers are planting fewer acres to cotton this year, if they'll plant the cotton as far as practicable from woods, it's reasonable to assume that they may be able to reduce losses from boll weevil damage.

TEUTON:

Well, isn't that true of cotton diseases, too, Mr. Doyle?

DOYLE:

The cotton disease specialists tell us that crop rotation, adapted to the locality of course, is one of the best and simplest ways to fight cotton diseases. And information on the best rotations for your community can be had from your county agent, or your State agricultural experiment station.

TEUTON:

So if a farmer plants fewer acres to cotton that gives him a better opportunity to rotate his crops, and thereby fight cotton diseases more effectively -- is that right, Mr. Doyle?

DOYLE:

Yes.

TEUTON:

And an opportunity to reduce weevil damage by planting his cotton in big open fields, Mr. Harned?

HARNED:

Yes.

TEUTON:

Good suggestions gentlemen. Thank you. Now let's turn to the last thing -- the ginning and marketing of cotton, and listen to Arthur W. Palmer, of the cotton marketing division of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, tell about the opportunity the program offers farmers to improve grade and staple. Does that opportunity exist, Mr. Palmer?

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[Faint handwritten notes]

PALMER:

Yes, it does. Fewer acres mean a better chance to do the things that improve quality. For example, we get the best grades when we can pick reasonably soon after the cotton opens, and when conditions are such that the cotton can be picked reasonably clean, and when it can be properly ginned.

TEUTON:

Mr. Palmer, doesn't the Department of Agriculture operate a cotton ginning and fiber laboratory?

PALMER:

Yes----at Stoneville, Mississippi, in the heart of the Cotton Belt. It's operated jointly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering. It's been established only three years and its work is just reaching a point where we can begin to make safe conclusions.

TEUTON:

What have you found out in those 3 years, Mr. Palmer?

PALMER:

One thing is that it takes time to gin cotton right. When farmers are lined up in the gin yard, the ginner is under pressure, of course, to gin each bale as quickly as he can. For many years it was believed that high saw speeds did the mischief but now we are learning that it is not so much the speed of the saws as it is the crowding of the seed cotton into the machinery that causes the greater damage to the lint. Furthermore, when gins and cleaning machinery are forced to operate at maximum capacity, the cleaning and moting actions are seldom at their best. Another thing is that dampness in seed cotton is a great enemy of good ginning. Naturally, it is better not to pick cotton when it is damp and to protect it if possible from getting wet in the field or on the wagon. But our

PALMER (Continued):

people are finding that if seed cotton does get wet it pays abundantly to dry it before ginning.

TESTON:

Mr. Harned, Mr. Palmer said early picking improves quality; doesn't it also help to reduce insect damage?

HARNED:

Yes. The quality of late cotton is more likely to be lowered by insect damage than cotton that matures and is picked early.

TESTON:

Well, Mr. Harned, just how does insect damage affect quality, anyway?

HARNED:

In many ways. Most cotton growers are familiar with the stains to lint caused by cotton worms and plant lice. But many do not realize that the quality of both the lint and the seed is reduced by weevils developing in the bolls.

TEUTON:

Tell us how this early picking aids in weevil control?

HARNED:

Well, as Mr. Palmer suggested, this reduction program enables farmers to pick early, and that in turn, offers a wonderful opportunity to put into practice one of the most satisfactory methods of weevil control; namely, the early fall destruction of the old cotton stalks. The best way to reduce weevil damage to next year's crop is to plow under the old stalks immediately after picking early in the fall -- and the earlier the better. Early destruction of the plants prevents the development of a late crop of weevils and removes the food supply of those already present.

TEUTON:

How does this early cutting up or turning under of old stalks fit in with the replacement crop program, Mr. Cox?

COX:

Fine. It will encourage the wider use of soil-improving and erosion-preventing crops during the winter.

TEUTON:

Well, Mr. Doyle, don't you believe we can improve the staple by planting better seed?

DOYLE:

Yes, I do. Staple length depends largely upon the variety and the purity of the seed planted.

TEUTON:

Do you have a question, Mr. Porter?

PORTER:

Yes. I'd like to ask Mr. Palmer if the farmer will get any more money for a better grade and staple if he produces it.

PALMER:

Unfortunately, farmers in many sections are handicapped in not having facilities by which to get their cotton graded, and in not having access to discriminating markets in which to sell. But we have ample data to show that in those communities where the average quality is high, farmers get prices which average higher than they do in communities where farmers are indifferent to the quality of the cotton they produce.

MALCOLM:

Mr. Palmer, can we really improve staple very much?

PALMER:

Yes, Mrs. Malcolm, we can. In fact, the staple length has been measurably improved in the last 5 years. In 1929, for example, one bale out of five was shorter than $7/8$ of an inch in staple length. This last season our figures show only about 1 bale out of 20 was that short, while the proportions of the crop that are of the more valuable lengths, $15/16$ and 1 inch, have correspondingly increased. There is doubtless room yet for improvement of this kind in many sections of the Belt.

TEUTON:

So you would say the cotton adjustment program offers farmers an opportunity to improve grade and staple would you, Mr. Palmer?

PALMER:

Yes.

TEUTON:

What would you say, Mr. Doyle?

DOYLE:

An opportunity to improve production by planting better seed.

TEUTON:

And you, Mr. Cox?

COX:

An opportunity to conserve our great national resource -- the soil --
and to balance farm production, and provide a better living for farm families.

TEUTON:

Mr. Harned?

HARNED:

An opportunity to decrease insect damage.

TEUTON:

Mr. Porter?

PORTER:

An opportunity to cut loose from credit and open a bank account.

TEUTON:

Mrs. Malcolm?

MALCOLM:

An opportunity for the women to stay in the home.

TEUTON:

Finish it up, Mr. Cobb.

COBB:

An opportunity to raise the price of cotton.

TEUTON:

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what specialists of the Department of Agriculture and the Adjustment Administration say about the opportunities the adjustment program offers cotton farmers to make a new and better Cotton Belt.

All right, Morse.

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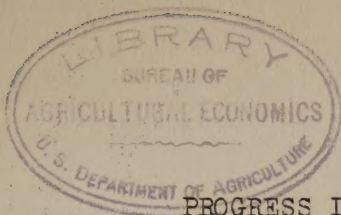
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PROGRESS IN COTTON ADJUSTMENTS.

A radio talk by Cully A. Cobb, chief of Cotton Section, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, Monday, May 21, 1934, and broadcast by a network of 50 associate NBC radio stations.

---ooOoo---

Ladies and gentlemen of the Farm and Home Hour:

My appearance before the microphone today is both a pleasure and a duty. A pleasure to talk with the farm people of this country. And a duty as your administrator of the cotton adjustment program to report on the progress of the work thus far.

The 1933 cotton adjustment program is history. And it isn't necessary to discuss that. What you want to know is something about the progress of the 1934 voluntary acreage reduction program, and the progress that is being made in administering the Bankhead Act.

First, I'll report on the progress of the 1934 voluntary acreage reduction program. The contract campaign for this program started on January 2, 1934, and ended on February 15. During that 45-day period nearly a million farmers signed contracts voluntarily offering to reduce their 1934 cotton crop by more than 15 million acres. And of the 955 thousand contracts that were approved in the field by county and State committees, 42 per cent or more than 405 thousand contracts have already been received and checked in Washington.

More than 2 million dollars have been paid out in rental benefits, and checks are going out in ever-increasing numbers every day. Contracts from nearly 400 counties have already been approved for payment. We are progressing rapidly with the approval of contracts from the other 600 counties.

Rental payment checks are going out at the rate of about 5,000 a day. In other words, more than a quarter million dollars in rental payments goes into the Cotton Belt every day. This will increase until 20 to 25 thousand checks are going out daily, and more than a million dollars a day are reaching the Belt. And all payments should be in the field by around the last of June.

The first installment of rental payments amounts to approximately 50 million dollars. The plan of payment is to approve a county at a time. As I have said, contracts from 400 of the 1000 cotton counties have already been approved for payment. More counties are being approved every day.

The first installment of rental payments would have probably been completed by this time if it hadn't been for the delay caused by rechecking of contracts in the county offices. But now the contracts are back from the counties and we are moving much faster.

Now a word about progress under the Bankhead Act.

(over)

President Roosevelt signed the Act on April 21 -- just one month ago today. In that short period the State allotments have all been made, and the county allotments are being tabulated as fast as the reports are received from the field.

We, here in Washington, are doing everything we can to see that each county gets a fair allotment. And while we are just as anxious to announce the county allotments as you are, yet we had rather go slow and be safe than to speed up and be sorry -- have to go back and recheck and reallocate.

The county allotments are being made on the basis of the average amount of cotton each county produced during the 5-year period 1928 to 1932. In order to get that average and get it right, it is necessary to check carefully the gin records in each county. And to make sure that justice is done to everyone, the records of all cross-country ginnings are checked also so that the people doing the checking can feel sure that each county is getting a fair deal.

Of course, that has slowed down the announcement of the county allotments. The announcement will be made just as soon as the records have all been checked and the work completed. That may be some days, depending on how fast the reports come in from the field, and on the final method of computing the allotments. But it shouldn't be very long unless we strike a hidden snag.

When you consider the enormous amount of work involved in carrying out the cotton adjustment programs, I believe you'll agree that very good progress is being made in both the 1934 voluntary acreage reduction program and the Bankhead Act.

I want to say here that there is no conflict between the 1934 voluntary acreage reduction program and the Bankhead Act. I consider the Bankhead Act a complement to the voluntary program. It supplements instead of supplants the voluntary program. And I believe cotton farmers who signed the 1934 voluntary reduction contract will be better off with the Bankhead Act than they would have been without it. Reports from the field indicate that the passage and signing of the Bankhead Act almost completely stopped the planting of excessive acreage by non-cooperating farmers.

So I repeat, the two programs are working hand in hand for the benefit of the farmer who is striving to hold down the production of American cotton until the mills of the world have had time to use up some of the huge surplus cotton supply that almost wrecked the Cotton Belt.
